

# Biodegradable Packaging

The Health Department & the Board of Public Works will require all vendors to have implemented biodegradable packaging by **September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**.

**To-go Containers**

Plastic take-out containers, coffee lids, Styrofoam cups

**Wrapping**

Plastic produce bags, excessive plastic wrapping

**Bags/Boxes**

Plastic bags, plastic and Styrofoam boxes and packaging

All above examples must be phased out



## What does this mean?

All vendors on Nantucket need to find new packaging to replace those that are made from plastic and Styrofoam, and switch to a biodegradable alternative.

This includes: packaging from shops, boutiques, restaurants, food trucks, and stalls at a farmer's market (see examples)

This excludes: products made off-island, wholesale products, food banks and food assistance programs

Reusable containers are encouraged as an alternative to a compostable package, however they must be made of a durable material that can be cleaned and disinfected.



## Conservation on Nantucket

The use of plastics and other packaging that does not break down easily has played a significant role in overwhelming Nantucket's landfill space. The Board of Public Works Regulation 71.00 on Biodegradable Packaging is a preventative action for the conservation of the scarce land resources here.



## [Exceptions to the Rule]



1) Small containers (between 1-2 ounces) will still be acceptable under the new regulation.

2) Paper products, including paper bags and cardboard boxes, are compostable.

3) Plastic straws may continue to be used.

4) Compostable utensils cannot be processed on-island; plastic utensils may be used.

5) Plastic bags without suitable alternative, like bread bags, and Saran wrap may still be used.

6) Aluminum is allowed.

*“Instead of plastic wrap, you can use butcher paper, wax paper, or aluminum foil.”*

Recommended,  
Not Required  
Tips from  
Roberto



## Which Packaging Products are Compostable?



The Biodegradable Products Institute certifies compostable products so that responsible consumers can identify scientifically proven biodegradable products. Their specifications ensure that a product will biodegrade “completely, quickly, and safely.” Look for their certification label (see above). For more information, visit their website: [www.bpiworld.org](http://www.bpiworld.org).

Please contact the Health Department with any questions regarding the implementation of this regulation at (508) 228-7200 or via email at [health@nantucket-ma.gov](mailto:health@nantucket-ma.gov).